



Joy is defined as a strong source of happiness and delight. That's why we are constantly enjoined to rejoice in the Lord. Why must we rejoice in the Lord, no matter the circumstances of life?

Isaiah 61:10: "I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for He has clothed me with the garments of salvation, He has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks *himself* with ornaments, and as a bride adorns *herself* with her jewels."

And we must rejoice even when:

Habakkuk 3:17-18: "Though the fig tree may not blossom, nor fruit be on the vines; though the labor of the olive may fail, and the fields yield no food; though the flock may be cut off from the fold, and there be no herd in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation."

Why?

Psalms 33:21: "For our heart shall rejoice in Him, because we have trusted in His Holy Name."

Proverbs 10:28: "The hopes of the godly result in happiness, but the expectations of the wicked come to nothing."

1Tim. 6:6-7: "Now godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into *this* world, *and it is* certain we can carry nothing out."

Do I understand that true joy isn't found in the world, but rather is found in the God of our salvation?

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What is the true and wholesome source of joy we can count on for this life and eternity?

Romans 5:1-2: "Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God."

Romans 5:11: "So now we can rejoice in our wonderful new relationship with God because our Lord Jesus Christ has made us friends of God."

Psalms 28:7: "The LORD is my strength and my shield; my heart trusted in Him, and I am helped; therefore my heart greatly rejoices, and with my song I will praise Him."

Luke 1:46-48: "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant. For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed."

Why?

1Thess. 1:6: "And you became followers of us and of the Lord, having received the Word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Spirit."

Psalms 16:11: "You will show me the way of life, granting me the joy of your presence and the pleasures of living with you forever."

Let's ask ourselves: Is the joy of the Lord ever present in my spirit knowing the eternal life awaiting me?

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Is the joy of the Lord limited to the blessings we receive, or are we to rejoice in all circumstances?

1Thess. 5:16-18: "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."

Psalms 118:24: "This *is* the day the LORD has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it."

Psalms 40:16: "May all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you; may those who love Your salvation say continually, "Great is the LORD!"

Psalms 105:3: "Glory in His holy Name; let the hearts of those rejoice who seek the LORD!"

What about when going through the trials and challenges of life?

James 1:2-3: "Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness."

Why?

Proverbs 17:22: "A joyful heart is good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones."

Psalms 133:21: "In Him our hearts rejoice, for we trust in His holy Name."

Does my heart rejoice in the Lord always, knowing the Spirit of Christ rests in me, no matter the circumstances?

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What attitude of the heart must we have to rejoice in the Lord always?
John 15:10-11: “When you obey My commandments, you remain in My love, just as I obey My Father’s commandments and remain in His love. I have told you these things so that you will be filled with My joy. Yes, your joy will overflow!”

In Matthew 25:21, Jesus gave the parable to show how a faithful servant will find joy, saying: “His lord said to him, ‘Well *done*, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.’”

How is that accomplished?

Psalm 37:4: “Delight yourself also in the LORD, and He shall give you the desires of your heart.”

The purpose being:

Colossians 1:10-11: “That you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing *Him*, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy.”

And the ultimate focus of our joy should be:

John 16:22: “Therefore you now have sorrow; but I will see you again and your heart will rejoice, and your joy no one will take from you.”

Do I apply myself in focusing on the promise of eternal life in Christ, to embrace the joy of the Lord?

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What does the Word of God tell us about the purpose of having joy in the Lord?

Romans 15:13: "Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."

Zephania 3:17: "The LORD your God in your midst, the Mighty One, will save; He will rejoice over you with gladness, He will quiet *you* with His love, He will rejoice over you with singing."

Acts 13:47: "For so the Lord has commanded us: 'I have set you as a light to the Gentiles, that you should be for salvation to the ends of the earth.'"

James 1:2-4: "Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing."

1Peter 4:13: "Rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy."

Finally, 1Peter 1:8-9: "Though now you do not see *Him*, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, receiving the end of your faith, the salvation of *your* souls."

Can I therefore declare as Psalm 16:9 says, "No wonder my heart is glad, and I rejoice?"

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